AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph added to page 1 by the preliminary amendment filed on August 29, 2003 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/821,880, filed March 30, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,655,015 ~~presently allowed~~, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace Paragraph [0060] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0060] The main module 41 consists of a base 47 (shown in FIGURES 10, 11, 13, 17-21, 25-27, 29-30, 32-34, and 38), an indexer 48, a dial plate 49, fixtures 50 and stations 1 thru 16. Note in ~~FIGURE 1~~ FIGURES 1 and 2 that the machine components mounted at each station 1 thru 16 are not shown. These components have been omitted for clarity. FIGURES 7 thru 39 [[40]] are drawings of the stations 1 thru 16 presented individually so that each may be illustrated with the necessary detail.

Please replace Paragraph [0066] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0066] In a circle around the dial plate 49, sixteen stations 1 thru 16 are paired in a one-to-one relationship with the sixteen fixtures 50 [[48]] on the dial plate 49. At each station 1 thru 16, a hole pattern 31 [[51]] is provided in the main base that is common to all of the stations 1 thru 16. This common hole pattern 31 [[51]] is part of a

modular design which simplifies construction and reduces cost by allowing stations 1 thru 16 to be constructed using interchangeable components. The modular station design also increases versatility and reduces maintenance time by allowing stations to be quickly interchanged and/or replaced.

Please replace Paragraph [0095] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0095] Step 1: The isolator slide 164 extends to its "up" position, shown in FIGURES 16 and 18, causing the tubes 165 to engage, from below, the two drive shafts D1 hanging in the isolator block 162. At the same time, the containment arms 172 ~~fingers 171~~ trap the second pair of drive shafts D3 to prevent the feeding shafts D from advancing. The drive shafts D1 are lifted in the isolator 160 by the pins 166 and supported by the tubes 165 to extend approximately one inch above the isolator block 162. Simultaneously, and as shown in FIGURE 18, the pick-and place 130 lowers to its "down" position where two drive shafts D2 already held by the closed pair of grippers 136 are placed into a pair of bodies B in the fixture 50 on the dial plate 49. This downward motion also places the open grippers 135 in position to grip the two shafts D1 lifted by the isolator 160.

Please replace Paragraph [0099] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0099] At Station Four 4 and Station Six 6, the angles are lubricated. A food grade, viscous lubricant such as petroleum jelly is preferred and is fed to both of

these stations by the lubricant-dispensing module 46 shown in FIGURE 2. The lubricant dispensing module 46 consists of a thermally insulated, heated, stainless steel tank 58. Air pressure is applied to the tank 58 to force the petroleum jelly through heated, insulated, flexible, feed lines 181 to Station Four 4 and Station Six 6 shown in FIGURES 19 and 21 [[22]].

Please replace Paragraph [0123] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0123] At Station Eight 8, the rotors R are seated in the bearings of the angle body B. Referring to FIGURES 12 and 27, Station Eight 8 is identical in construction and operation to Station Five 5 described above. The operation at Station Eight 8 occurs as follows:

Please replace Paragraph [0128] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0128] At Station Nine 9, the angle body is snapped closed. Referring to FIGURES 28 thru 30, a support post 150 is mounted to the main base 47 at Station Nine 9. A clamp block 151 is attached to the support post 150. The support post 150 and clamp block 151 are preferably identical to those described above making the stations modular so that they may be easily interchanged. An angle plate 221 is attached to the clamp block 151. An air cylinder 220 is mounted to the angle plate 221. The air cylinder 220 is positioned to extend horizontally toward the center of the dial 49 in alignment with the push rod 100. The operation occurs at Station Nine 9 as follows:

Please replace Paragraph [0147] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0147] The presence of drive shafts is determined by detecting the pins 85 extending downward from the mounting posts 78 below the dial plate 49. The pair of inductive proximity sensors 262 [[261]] is mounted to detect the pins 85. If one of the sensors 262 [[261]] does not detect its corresponding pin 85, the drive shaft on that mounting post 78 is not present in that angle A, and the angle A will be rejected at Station Thirteen 13 described below.

Please replace Paragraph [0178] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0178] While a preferred automated assembly and packaging machine ~~washer~~ has been described in detail, various modifications, alterations, and changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the ~~washer according to the~~ present invention as defined in the appended claims.